

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for processing image files, comprising:  
2 detecting a command to perform an initial processing operation;  
3 optically scanning a document to form a document image in response to the  
4 command;  
5 analyzing the document image to detect control information on the document;  
6 if the control information is detected, performing the initial processing operation  
7 on user-selected ones of the image files;  
8 analyzing the document image to detect at least one marked processing operation  
9 marked on the document;  
10 if the at least one marked processing operation is detected, performing the at least  
11 one marked processing operation on the user-selected ones of the image files.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the initial processing operation and the at least  
2 one marked processing operation are each selected from the group consisting of printing  
3 the image files on a medium, storing the image files on a mass storage device, and sending  
4 the image files to a compatible system of a recipient.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the sending is selected from the group  
2 consisting of faxing, e-mailing, and posting onto a web page.

1           4. The method of claim 1, wherein the document is a combination proof and order  
2 sheet, further comprising:

3           marking a user designation area of the combination proof and order sheet so as to  
4 specify the at least one marked processing operation.

1           5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           if the control information is not detected, performing the initial processing  
3 operation on the document image.

1           6. The method of claim 1, wherein the document is a combination proof and order  
2 sheet, and wherein the analyzing the document image to detect control information on the  
3 document includes:

4           analyzing the document image to detect at least one identity marker on the  
5 combination proof and order sheet.

1           7. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting the command includes detecting  
2 manipulation of a control on a multifunction printing system.

1           8. The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting the command includes receiving a  
2 command sent to a multifunction printing system via a host computer link.

1           9. The method of claim 1, wherein the document is a combination proof and order  
2 sheet, further comprising:

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3 marking at least one user designation area of the combination proof and order  
4 sheet so as to specify the user-selected ones of the image files.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the marking includes:  
2 marking a user designation area associated with all the image files.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the marking includes:  
2 marking at least one user designation area, each area associated with a  
3 corresponding one of the image files.

1 12. A method for specifying operational values for image processing parameters,  
2 comprising:  
3 identifying image files to be processed;  
4 obtaining from a first data source default values for each of the parameters;  
5 for at least one subset of the image files, obtaining from a second data source  
6 overriding values for selected ones of the parameters;  
7 processing each of the image files in each individual subset using the overriding  
8 values for the selected ones of the parameters and the default values for the non-selected  
9 ones of the parameters; and  
10 processing each of the image files excluded from all of the subsets using the default  
11 values for each of the parameters.

FIG. 5A

1           13. The method of claim 12, wherein each of the at least one subset of the image  
2   files contains one image file.

1           14. The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one subset of the image files is at  
2   least two subsets, and wherein at least one element selected from the group consisting of  
3   the selected one of the parameters and the overriding values is different in a first one and a  
4   second one of the at least two subsets.

1           15. The method of claim 12, wherein the obtaining default values from a first data  
2   source includes obtaining default values from user-operated controls of a multifunction  
3   printing system having a scanner.

1           16. The method of claim 15, wherein the obtaining overriding values from a  
2   second data source includes obtaining overriding values from user markings made on a  
3   proof sheet inserted into the scanner.

1            17. The method of claim 12, wherein the processing each of the image files is  
2        selected from the group consisting of printing each of the image files on a medium, storing  
3        each of the image files on a mass storage device, and sending each of the image files to a  
4        compatible system of a recipient.

1           18. The method of claim 12, wherein each individual one of the parameters is  
2   selected from the group consisting of a copy-count parameter, a size/scaling parameter, a  
3   media-select parameter, a brightness parameter, and a color balance parameter.

1 19. A multifunction printing system, comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 an input port connected to the processor for receiving image files;  
4 an interface connected to the processor for receiving a command to initiate a  
5 processing sequence and for specifying an initial operation to be performed on the image  
6 files by the processor during the processing sequence; and  
7 a scanner connected to the processor for receiving and optically scanning a  
8 combination proof and order sheet specifying a marked operation to be performed on  
9 selected ones of the image files by the processor during the processing sequence.

1 20. The multifunction printing system of claim 19, wherein the initial operation and  
2 the marked operation are each a different one selected from the group consisting of  
3 printing image files, storing image files, and sending image files.

1 21. The multifunction printing system of claim 19, wherein the interface is selected  
2 from the group consisting of a set of user interface controls and a communications port.

1 22. A multifunction printing system, comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 an input port connected to the processor for receiving digital image files;  
4 an interface connected to the processor for specifying default values for a set of  
5 image processing parameters;

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6 a scanner connected to the processor for receiving and optically scanning a  
7 combination proof and order sheet, the sheet specifying for at least one subset of the  
8 image files overriding values for selected ones of the image processing parameters; and  
9 wherein the processor processes each of the image files in each individual subset  
10 using the overriding values for the selected ones of the parameters and the default values  
11 for the non-selected ones of the parameters.

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